

INGRID DE SAINT-GEORGES & JEAN-JACQUES WEBER

MULTILINGUALISM AND MULTIMODALITY: CURRENT CHALLENGES FOR EDUCATIONAL STUDIES

Preface

The contributions presented in this volume derive from the second lecture series – in a set of four – dedicated to the interdisciplinary investigation of the ‘Future of Education Research’. This second series took place between September 2011 and January 2012 at the Faculty of Language and Literature, Humanities, Arts and Education (FLSHASE), University of Luxembourg. It was organized under the umbrella of the University Research Priority on ‘Education and Learning in Multilingual and Multicultural Contexts’. Complementing the first series on *Education Systems in Historical, Cultural, and Sociological Perspectives*, the goal of the second series was to address some of the varied educational challenges resulting from two contemporary phenomena: on the one hand, the new dimensions of social, cultural and linguistic diversity arising out of unprecedented migration and mobility patterns; and on the other hand, the increased visibility of technology (old and new) both in schools and outside them. Hence, the focus for this volume on *multilingualism* and *multimodality*. Nine scholars, presented their work for the second lecture series: Jan Blommaert (Babylon Centre, Tilburg University), Gunther Kress (Institute of Education, University of London), Adrian Blackledge (MOSAIC Centre for Multilingualism, University of Birmingham), Laurent Filliettaz (University of Geneva), Carey Jewitt (Institute of Education, University of London), Jean-Jacques Weber (University of Luxembourg), Ruth Wodak (Lancaster University), Kevin Leander (Vanderbilt University) and Luisa Martín Rojo (Autonomous University of Madrid). We are very grateful that they readily accepted our invitation and shared their expertise with us.

A lecture series is constituted by presentations and texts, but only takes place when rooms have been prepared, flyers posted, receptions organized, hotels booked and when a good audience attends. Many colleagues have contributed to make this event possible and we would like to express our appreciation to Ragnhild Barbu, Andrea Hake, Marianne Graffé and Sofia Pacheco for their support during the lecture series and beyond. Constance Ellwood, Adam Le Nevez, Kristian Mortensen and Stefan Serwe have moreover delivered excellent editorial assistance when it was most needed. It has also been heart-warming to see our colleagues and students attend this collective event with so much enthusiasm. Their astute and

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stimulating questions made the interdisciplinary debates all the more lively and thought-provoking.

Another feature of this lecture series was that, on the day following each presentation, small workshops were organized with the speakers for doctoral candidates. During the workshops, concepts, frameworks and methodologies were dissected every bit as much as the social practices and processes involved in doing linguistic and semiotic research. The participants in the workshops were: Stefan Serwe, Rahel Stoike, Philip Blanca, Katja Weinerth. They were joined on various occasions by colleagues and students (Kristian Mortensen, Patrick Sunnen, Anne Franziskus, Claudia Seele, Adrienne Ouafu, Sarah Vasco Correia, Martin Kracheel and Roberto Gomez). These participants' projects in the fields of multilingualism and multimodality nurtured invigorating debates.

Finally, a thread was woven into the series that we had not anticipated. Many informal conversations evoked scholar and linguist Ron Scollon. Ron having been Ingrid's mentor at Georgetown University, this was not entirely by chance; the mere mention of his name usually triggered thoughts, stories and anecdotes. As a result, when we were putting this volume together, we thought he might have enjoyed sitting in such good company and being part of this conversation. Suzie Scollon, his wife, gave us permission to print a previously unpublished plenary lecture delivered at Aalborg. It has been included as a coda for this book.

Ingrid de Saint-Georges & Jean-Jacques Weber
Walferdange, Luxembourg, August 2012